

Alternative Tags for Outdoor Portable Fire Extinguishers

Issue:

Portable fire extinguishers are required by Division B, Article 6.1.1.5. of the Alberta Fire Code (AFC) to have a tag securely attached. However, sometimes this tag is damaged or removed due to weather (e.g. wind tears the tag from the extinguisher or it tag becomes unreadable due to direct exposure).

Safety personnel conducting the monthly and annual inspections have expressed concerns that many 40B:C or 80B:C fire extinguishers located outdoors on their commercial equipment are missing their tags due to the manner and environment in which these extinguishers are placed.

Extinguishers with missing tags are deemed “out of service” until such time another inspection can be conducted and another tag is placed on the extinguisher.

Background:

The AFC, in Article 6.1.1.5., requires that a portable fire extinguisher shall have a tag securely attached. This would mean a paper or plastic tag secured to the extinguisher via the use of wire fasteners, nylon seal fasteners, string, etc.

Code Requirement:

Sentence 6.1.1.5. (3) states the following:

6.1.1.5. Records

3) Except as permitted by Sentence (4), each portable extinguisher shall have a tag securely attached to it showing

- a) the type of extinguisher,
- b) the size of extinguisher,
- c) the serial number of extinguisher,
- d) the date of last annual maintenance,
- e) the date of last recharge,
- f) a five-year monthly inspection and annual maintenance record,
- g) the name of the owner of the extinguisher,
- h) the name, address and telephone number of the service agency,
- i) the certification number of the approved testing agency, and
- j) the printed name and signature of the service person.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the Alberta Fire Code 2014.

Issue of this STANDATA is authorized by
the Chief Fire Administrator

[Original Signed]
Kevan Jess



Variance:

To help alleviate the issue of tag damage or destroyed tags due to weather exposure, the following actions may be taken:

Companies having 40B:C, or higher rated fire extinguishers located outdoors on their commercial equipment, may request their extinguisher servicing company use adhesive labels (meeting the requirements of 6.1.1.5.(3)). Adhesive labels are only to be utilized on fire extinguishers that are directly subjected to the weather elements. Any extinguisher rated for less than 40B:C, or located inside building structures will continue to require a tag securely attached.

More specifically, adhesive labels are to be placed on the back side of the fire extinguisher ONLY. They are never to be placed on the front of a fire extinguisher. The new label shall be affixed to the shell by a heatless process, and any old maintenance labels shall be removed. The labels shall be of the self-destructive type when their removal from a fire extinguisher is attempted. Records shall be kept on a tag or label attached to the fire extinguisher, on an inspection checklist maintained on file or by an electronic method that provides a permanent record.